

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01949 011027Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 HA-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGRE-00
OES-07 HEW-04 /108 W
-----034927 011034Z /17

P 010935Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8547
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1949

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG WA ZA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: UN ASSISTANCE TO SWAPO

REF: STATE 129692

1. EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REFTEL, BUT WE HAVE HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN GETTING APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE UN OFFICIALS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE CITY. WE HAVE STILL NOT BEEN ABLE TO MEET WITH WFP PERSONNEL AND WILL REPORT ON THEIR ACTIVITIES WHEN WE MANAGE TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT.

2. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF SWAPO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR PROJECTS:
--EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE INCLUDING PROVISION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES (BOOKS, BLACKBOARDS, PENCILS) TO VARIOUS SWAPO SETTLEMENTS; SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SWAPO-SUPPORTED STUDENTS; STIPEND FOR SOME TEACHERS AT THE NYANGO SETTLEMENT.
--FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PRESIDENT'S CITIZENSHIP TRAINING COLLEGE IN NDOLA, WHICH IS PROVIDING TRAINING IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIELD TO PREPARE TECHNICIANS FOR TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH SYSTEMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01949 011027Z

--AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE WHICH PROVIDES SEEDS, FERTILIZERS, INSECTICIDES, AND BASIC AGRICULTURAL TOOLS FOR THE SWAPO CAM AND FARM AT NYANGO.
--PROGRAM DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH SERVICES AT SETTLEMENTS UNDER SWAPO SPONSORSHIP; PROVIDES STIPENDS AND LIVING EXPENSES FOR SOME DOCTORS AND NURSES, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, AND AN AMBULANCE FOR A CLINIC AT NYANGO; SOME DRUGS AND MEDICAL

SUPPLIES ARE PROVIDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNICEF.

3. UNICEF HAS HAD A PROGRAM FOR SWAPO IN ZAMBIA SINCE 1974 AND EXPENDITURES HAVE TOTALED APPROXIMATELY \$200,000 FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROJECTS CARRIED OUT AT NYANGO. ITEMS PROVIDED INCLUDE DRUGS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, BOOKS, BLACKBOARDS, SEEDS, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, AND SOME BUILDING MATERIALS INTENDED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CLASSROOMS.

4. THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES REPORTS PROVIDING ABOUT \$12,000 WORTH OF MEDICINE TO NYANGO IN 1977. THIS YEAR UNHCR HAS GIVEN \$3,000 FOR RENTAL OF A BUILDING USED AS A CLINIC FOR A SWAPO CAMP NEAR MONGU IN WESTERN PROVINCE. THEY ARE ALSO SUPPORTING NINE STUDENTS FOLLOWING AN ACADEMIC COURSE AT NKUMBI COLLEGE, AND PAID TRANSPORT COSTS TO SEND 36 STUDENTS TO GHANA FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION. THE OFFICE HAS TENTATIVE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY \$45,000 FOR IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AT NYANGO.

5. AS NOTED ABOVE, MANY OF THESE UN ACTIVITIES ARE CENTERED ON SWAPO'S NYANGO SETTLEMENT, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE "FARM." NYANGO IS THE LARGEST SWAPO CAMP IN ZAMBIA WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 2,500, MAINLY WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ELDERLY. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THE FARM IS A REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN THE NORMAL SENSE OF THE TERM, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01949 011027Z

TO INDICATE THAT IT IS A MILITARY TRAINING CAMP. THERE ARE OTHER SWAPO SETTLEMENTS IN ZAMBIA WHICH ARE USED FOR TRAINING/ OPERATIONAL PURPOSES, AND THESE CAMPS ARE CLOSED TO ALL OUTSIDE VISITORS.

6. IN THE PAST, THE FARM AT NYANGO HAS ALSO BEEN CLOSED, BUT RECENTLY THIS POLICY HAS BEEN EASED: A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE FUND WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT THE FARM ABOUT A MONTH AGO TO INTERVIEW POSSIBLE SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES; TWO OFFICIALS OF THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE GIVEN A TOUR OF THE FARM ON MAY 21 (NORWEGIANS HERE TELL US THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING "FOR YEARS" TO GET PERMISSION); AND THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION "IN PRINCIPLE" TO VISIT NYANGO, BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME (HE HAS BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS). ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WE HAVE INFORMALLY BROACHED THE SUBJECT WITH SWAPO OFFICIALS, BUT HAVE RECEIVED NO ENCOURAGEMENT. MOST KEY SWAPO OFFICIALS ARE NOW IN ANGOLA DEALING WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE CASSINGA RAID, AND AFTER THEY RETURN TO LUSAKA WE WILL SOUND THEM OUT AGAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL VISITING THE FARM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA01949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780229-0160
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806108/aaaadonl.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5bd9417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 129692
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2162880
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: UN ASSISTANCE TO SWAPO
TAGS: PORG, WA, ZA, UN, SWAPO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5bd9417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014